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executive functions approach most nearly in the permanent king's council which was *always at his side* to help him in dealing with problems of government. . . . But the real function of the council was to give advice." This appears to ignore the essential fact that the council was at an early date withdrawn from court, and that, while there remained councillors with the king, the principal branch of the organized body was given a home among the courts at Westminster. Its participation in administration and judicature was not the less real by being in the form of advice. The Tudors afterwards reversed this order by reviving and strengthening its connection with the household.

Far from being wholly institutional, the work is replete with biographical notices of bishops, barons, chancellors, keepers, and clerks. It reveals the wardrobe as the particular training-ground of a virtual civil service and an incipient bureaucracy. In the revolutionary period of Edward II. it traverses familiar ground. The net results of the baronial opposition were the depression of the wardrobe, the temporary revival of the chamber, and the removal of the privy seal from court. The further development of the small seals under Edward III. and Richard II. promises to be no less interesting, and the completion of the work to the revolution of 1399 will be eagerly awaited.

JAMES F. BALDWIN.

Codice Diplomatico dei Re Aragonesi di Sicilia, Pietro I., Giacomo, Federico II., Pietro II. e Ludovico, dalla Rivoluzione Siciliana del 1282 sino al 1355, con Note Storiche e Diplomatiche. Per GIUSEPPE LA MANTIA. Volume I., Anni 1282-1290. [Documenti per servire alla Storia di Sicilia pubblicati a cura della Società Siciliana per la Storia Patria. Prima serie, Diplomatica, vol. XXIII.] (Palermo: Boccone del Povero. 1917. Pp. ccxv, 698.)

THE records of the Aragonese dominion in Sicily were once extremely rich, combining as they did the administrative traditions of two of the earliest and most fully developed bureaucracies in Europe, yet such have been the effects of war and transfer and neglect that relatively little remains in Sicily itself. At Barcelona, on the contrary, the archives of the crown of Aragon are, for the last two and a half centuries of the Middle Ages, among the fullest in Europe, as scholars of other countries have begun to learn particularly through the publications of Finke; and all who have had occasion to examine their long series of registers and *cartas sueltas* can testify to their admirable order and no less admirable administration. One could guess in advance that this rich store is the most important source of Cav. La Mantia's stout volume, in spite of his long researches at Palermo and in other Sicilian repositories. The great gap results from the loss of the registers of the Sicilian administration, save for a volume of 1282-1283 which had

the good fortune to be carried to Catalonia, where it was transcribed by Carini and published in 1882, and certain fragments of 1353-1355 discovered by La Mantia himself. His earnest labors to collect the materials for the intervening years will be appreciated by all students of the period.

It is not the editor's fault if his volume brings to light less that is new than does such a collection as the *Acta Aragonensia* of Finke. On the Sicilian side the period of the Vespers and the critical years which follow have been the subject of research from early times to the recent substantial monograph of Otto Cartellieri, while Carini took the freshness away from much of the material in Spain. Only documents of special importance are reprinted, but all are carefully analyzed, with elaborate annotation and citation of modern writers, who are also treated at length in the introduction. One is disposed to criticize the reproduction of no. 13 (cf. no. 15) from Rymer's text of 1727, when a photograph could easily have been obtained from the Record Office for collation. There is the usual considerable number of forgeries, chiefly genealogical, which plague every student of the Sicilian charters of the Middle Ages. Legal procedure is illustrated, as well as general diplomatic and military history, and several documents throw light on commercial relations. Perhaps the most interesting texts are two detailed accounts of the receipts and expenditures of the admiral of Aragon for 1283 and 1285-1287, preserved in the archives of the cathedral of Valencia, whence they were printed by Huici in an out-of-the-way Spanish review in 1914-1915. The editor is to be thanked for republishing these, with a more careful text and fuller annotation (nos. 222, 241), as well as a summarized statement of the account, the whole affording an illustration of the enormous amount of valuable information which is still locked up in the fiscal documents of the Middle Ages, and causing us to lament the loss of earlier Sicilian accounts. The receipts cover supplies as well as money, and one item (p. 600) is "from various pirates for the right of the fifth (*quinta*) of the spoil and other property acquired by them in the exercise of piracy".

CHARLES H. HASKINS.

Les Étrangers en France sous l'Ancien Régime. Par J. MATHOREZ, Membre du Comité des Travaux Historiques et Scientifiques. Tome I. *Les Causes de la Pénétration des Étrangers en France; les Orientaux et les Extra-Européens dans la Population Française.* [Histoire de la Formation de la Population Française.] (Paris: Édouard Champion. 1919. Pp. viii, 437. 35 fr.)

ACCEPTING as conclusively demonstrated by the cumulative evidence of anthropology, ethnology, and archaeology the basic complexity of the French race, M. Mathorez waives the conventional obligation to "begin at the beginning", adjourns the consideration of origins, and,